



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone
928 638-7609 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

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Contact(s): Maureen Oltrogge
Phone number: 928-638-7779
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Victim in Colorado River Boating Accident Identified

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – The victim in Sunday's boating accident on the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park has been identified as 45-year-old Randall Johnson from Grand Junction, Colorado.

On Sunday, March 16, at approximately 4:00 p.m. the boat Johnson had been traveling in flipped in Hance Rapid, at River Mile 77. Johnson was extracted from the boat and had been in the water several minutes before being pulled out by others in his party. Although CPR efforts were immediately initiated by participants on the trip, efforts to save him were not successful.

Johnson was on a 21-day private river trip that had launched at Lees Ferry on Monday, March 10.

Although park rangers had received a report on Sunday, they were unable to reach the party due to inclement weather and inaccessible terrain. The trip had continued downriver to Phantom Ranch where they were met yesterday afternoon by park rangers. At that time the man's body was flown out of the canyon and transferred to the Coconino County Medical Examiner and taken to Flagstaff, Arizona.

An autopsy will be performed by the Medical Examiner tomorrow to determine cause of death.

No additional details are available at this time. An investigation is being conducted by the National Park Service.

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